

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

**ITEM NUMBER: 9**

**SUBJECT: Staff Closure**

**Former Tosco Service Station #5401 , 7000 El Camino Real, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County; [Corey Walsh (805) 542-4781]**

This site is a former service station located on the southwest corner of El Camino Real and Morro Road (Hwy 41) in Atascadero, and is surrounded by commercial properties. ConocoPhillips Company is the party responsible for cleanup of the site. Site facilities formerly included two gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs), associated product lines, two dispenser islands, and a small commercial building. California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) currently owns the site. CalTrans is redeveloping the site for Highway 101 access improvements.

During site upgrade activities in August 1992, contractors discovered a release of gasoline. The site owner removed two 10,000-gallon gasoline USTs, one 6,000-gallon diesel UST, and one 500-gallon waste oil UST from the site. These were replaced by the facilities referenced above. Historic groundwater analytical results indicate the constituents of concerns were total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as gasoline, TPH as diesel, TPH as motor oil (TPH-mo), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, tertiary-butyl alcohol (TBA) and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). The maximum concentrations for TPH-g, TPH-mo, benzene, TBA, and MTBE were as follows: 57,000 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), 17,000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 1,000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , 1,120  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , and 69,000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , respectively. The ConocoPhillips excavated approximately 170 cubic yards of contaminated soil, and removed free product during these upgrades. ConocoPhillips subsequently implemented a Water Board-approved Corrective Action Plan consisting of enhanced bioremediation and groundwater batch extractions. Cleanup activities included groundwater extraction events on select monitoring wells which removed 1,680 gallons of contaminated groundwater and installation of Oxygen Release Compound (ORC) socks in select monitoring wells.

In late 2007, CalTrans began redevelopment of the site. Prior to site redevelopment and the destruction of existing monitoring wells, analytical results from groundwater samples were below cleanup goals for all constituents of concerns except in one monitoring well. Results from that well showed TPH-mo at 17,000  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Historic samples of the same monitoring well showed maximum TPH-mo concentrations of 2,100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . CalTrans installed temporary monitoring wells in this area to verify the anomalous increase in TPH-mo concentration. Subsequent groundwater investigation showed all constituents of concern are below cleanup goals. The depth to groundwater at the site is approximately nine feet below ground surface. Groundwater flows toward the south-southwest at an average gradient of 0.05 feet per foot.

The site lies within the Atascadero Hydrologic Subarea of the Salinas Hydrologic Unit, (3-9.81). The "Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coast Region" (Basin Plan) designates groundwater in the Atascadero Subarea as having beneficial uses for domestic and municipal supply, agricultural supply, and industrial supply. The site cleanup goals for common gasoline constituents are as follows: total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) - 1,000 µg/L, benzene - 1 µg/L, and MTBE - 5 µg/L. The nearest active water supply well is the Atascadero Mutual Water Company well No. 1 located approximately one mile north of the site. However, Atascadero Unified School District operates an irrigation well located approximately 2,000 feet north of site. Any residual petroleum hydrocarbons are unlikely to impact these wells considering the groundwater flow direction, well distances, and low contaminant concentration.

Based on site investigation and groundwater monitoring results, there is no longer a threat to groundwater or surface water quality from the historic release of petroleum hydrocarbons at this site. Central Coast Water Board staff has no further requirements for groundwater monitoring, investigation, or cleanup at the site. The San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services, Hazardous Materials Program agrees with this determination. The property owner, adjacent owners and other interested parties have also been notified of the proposed case closure. We received one comment from a neighboring property owner asking for clarification of the closure process. Central Coast Water Board staff contacted the interested party and resolved her concerns.

Limited residual soil contamination left in place could require worker health and safety protection and soil waste disposal restrictions in the event of a land use change at the site. However, the site is part of a freeway on-ramp and is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. The Central Coast Water Board, San Luis Obispo County Division of Environmental Health Services, and the appropriate planning and building department should be notified before any changes in land use, grading activities, excavation, or dewatering. ConocoPhillips has been directed to destroy all monitoring wells and the Executive Officer will issue a final case closure letter upon receipt of a well destruction report documenting the proper destruction of all monitoring wells.